CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication:	Gemini Heat
Other known title(s):	Not stated
OFLC ref:	1400250.000
Medium:	Book
Author:	Portia Da Costa
Publisher:	Black Lace
Country of origin:	United Kingdom
Language:	English
Applicant:	Auckland Council
Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.
Descriptive note:	Contains sex scenes.
Display conditions:	When the book is on public display, the classification given to the book must be shown by way of a label issued in accordance with a direction under s36(A)(2) of the FVPC Act.
Date of entry in Register:	25 August 2015
Date of direction to issue a label:	25 August 2015
Date of notice of decision:	No notice of decision has been issued

Summary of reasons for decision:

'Gemini Heat' is a paperback novel of erotic fiction written by Portia Da Costa, first published in 1994. It was classified by the Indecent Publications Tribunal in 1994 as Indecent in the hands of persons under the age of 18 years, under the Indecent Publications Act 1963. It has been submitted by the Auckland Libraries under s42 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (FVPC Act) for a reconsideration of that classification, because of the time that has elapsed since that initial decision.

Gemini Heat is about identical twin sisters, Delia and Deana, who enter into an erotic relationship with a rich and powerful businessman named Jackson Kazuto de Guille. Because book's focus is on sexual behaviour its availability is still likely to be injurious to the public good unless restricted to persons aged 16 and over. The book has little storyline but is devoted to

descriptions of the protagonists' sexual activity which extends to conduct of a 'BDSM' nature where characters consensually enjoy both inflicting and suffering pain and some degree of degradation. Acts are described at length and in detail with the intention of arousing the reader. However the manner in which the book is written is quite light-hearted and whimsical in tone, which reduces the impact of the explicit descriptions. The overall tone is of playful erotic tension.

A degree of maturity and sexual knowledge is required to interpret the book in its intended erotica context. For younger persons, to be exposed prematurely to sexual content of this nature is likely to have a negative effect on their sexual development. Older teenagers, who are likely to have some degree of sexual knowledge, should be able to gauge that the content is fictitious and intended to arouse. Thus the restriction may be lowered from its previous R18 classification to R16. Reducing the restriction reflects current classification legislation and contemporary attitudes to sex. A higher restriction would not be reasonable and demonstratively justifiable in this case. This restriction is the minimum necessary in order to prevent likely injury to the public good, in accordance with the protections on the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.